

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 257374

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

UNCLAS STATE 257374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BLOM, US, MA

SUBJECT: VANILLA PRICE NEGOTIATIONS

1. MR. ROBERT KOCH, MEMBER OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FLAVOR AND EXTRACT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, REQUESTS THAT YOU INFORM J. ELIE RAKOTOVAZAHA, DIRECTOR OF CAISSE DE STABILIZATION DES PRIX DE LA VANILLE THAT THE ASSOCIATION ON ADVICE OF COUNSEL NOW BELIEVES THAT IT CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTING OF AN EXPORT PRICE FOR MALAGASY VANILLA BEANS WITHOUT VIOLATING US ANTITRUST LAWS. THEREFORE ASSOCIATION WOULD APPRECIATE INVITATION TO ATTEND NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 5 AND 6 TO SET EXPORT PRICES. FYI ACCORDING TO MR. KOCH ASSOCIATION IN PAST PARTICIPATED IN ANNUAL MEETINGS BUT EARLIER THIS YEAR INFORMED GOMR THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF FEAR OF VIOLATION OF US ANTITRUST LAWS.

2. DUE TO LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE REQUEST YOU INFORM DEPT OF RAKOTOVAZAHA'S DECISION SO THAT WE CAN RELAY IT TO KOCH. INGERSOLL

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